

U.S. Application No.: 10/517,156

Amendment A

Reply to Office action dated 10/12/2006

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 3968.116

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REMARKS

Claims 18-36 are pending in the application. Claims 18-34 have been amended. Claims 35-36 have been added. Claims 1-17 have been previously cancelled.

First, Applicants would like to briefly review the present invention.

Process and device for adjusting a specific position of each tool set of a multistage process are known. However, an adjustment of this type of a deformation tool is comparatively time consuming and complex.

The object of the present invention is to provide a process that makes a relatively simple and reliable adjustment of the deformation geometry of a deformation tool and a suitable test tool for carrying out the process and a suitable deformation tool.

To achieve the above object, the present invention provides a process for optimizing the adjustment of a deformation tool (12) provided for deformation of a sheet (10), comprising:

preforming a sheet (10) using the deformation tool (12) to be adjusted,
subsequently, for correction of the sheet geometry, introducing into the sheet (10) at least one partial area deformation (14) using a test tool (16), and

following attainment of the acceptable sheet geometry, using the geometry of the partial area deformation (14) for adjusting the deformation geometry of the deformation tool (12).

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of informalities.

Appropriate correction has been made.

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Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 18-28 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over de Smet (US 5,119,658) in view of Palmer (US 2,646,706).

De Smet discloses a method for forming a sheet metal blank, in particular in order to make a cathode ray tube mask. Fig. 8 of de Smet shows ribs 40 formed on the flanged edge of the mask. The number, distribution, dimension and shape of the ribs 40 are determined so as to absorb the excess length corresponding to the variation in length of the flanged edge.

It is not clear how de Smet discloses the concept of the instant application as recited in claim 18. In fact, de Smet does not appear to disclose a test tool for introducing at least one partial area deformation, which can then be used to adjust the deformation geometry of the deformation tool.

Palmer also does not disclose the above concept. Palmer discloses a tool for straightening sheet metal such as in vehicles bodies and the like. However, Palmer does not disclose introducing at least one partial area deformation, which can then be used to adjust the deformation geometry of the deformation tool.

It is noted that in de Smet and Palmer only one tool is disclosed. In contrast, in the present invention two different tools, namely the deformation tool and the test tool, are provided. These two tools work together to realize the process of the present invention.

Claims 18-28 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the prior art.

Claims 32-34 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Valek et al. (US 3,621,699) in view of Rehbein (US 1,915,102).

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As admitted by the Examiner, Valek et al. do not disclose releasable inserts. Rehbein discloses a method for forming a drip molding. It is noted that in Fig. 5 of Rehbein the elements 10, 17 are not releasable inserts formed in the stamp, but rather stationary die members.

Nevertheless, claims 32-34 have been amended to be dependent on claim 18 to facilitate prosecution.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 29-31 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being anticipated by Palmer.

Claims 29-31 have been amended to be dependent on claim 18.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 18-34 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that it is not clear what "performing a sheet" as recited in claims 18, 29, and 32 would require.

This is a typographical error. The word "performing" has been changed to "preforming."

Claims 23, 27-28, and 33 have also been amended to correct certain informalities.

Claims 35-36 have been added. The support of claims 35-36 may be found in previous claims 27-28. Claims 35-36 are believed to be patentable due to their dependency on claim 18.

Please charge any fees which may be required to the deposit account 50-0951.

Favorable consideration and early issuance of an Office action on the merits are

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respectfully requested. Should further issues remain prior to allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 18, 2006

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